



UNITED STATES DISTRICT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

DONNY A. SINKOV, as Father and  
Potential Personal Representative of  
SPENCER SINKOV, deceased, and the  
Estate of Spencer E. Sinkov, deceased,

Plaintiffs,

-against-

DONALD R. SMITH, individually and in  
his official capacity as Sheriff of  
Putnam County, JOSEPH A. VASATURO,  
individually, LOUIS G. LAPOLLA,  
individually, THE COUNTY OF PUTNAM,  
New York, and AMERICOR, INC.,

Defendants.

222 Bloomingdale Road  
White Plains, New York  
January 30, 2008  
11:10 A.M.

EXAMINATION BEFORE TRIAL of ROBERT LEFEVER,  
a witness on behalf of the Defendant THE COUNTY  
OF PUTNAM, in the above-captioned matter, held  
at the above time and place, before a Notary  
Public of the State of New York.

Donna Bochnik,  
Shorthand Reporter

COMPU-TRAN SHORTHAND REPORTING

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED,  
by and between the attorneys for the respective  
parties hereto, that the sealing and filing of  
the within deposition be waived; that such  
deposition may be signed and sworn to before any  
officer authorized to administer an oath with  
the same force and effect as if signed and sworn  
to before a Justice of this Court.

IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED AND AGREED  
that all objections, except as to form, are  
reserved to the time of trial.

IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED AND AGREED  
that the within examination and any corrections  
thereto may be signed before any Notary Public  
with the same force and effect as if signed and  
sworn to before this Court.

COMPU-TRAN SHORTHAND REPORTING

## APPEARANCES:

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BY: TIMOTHY P. COON, ESQ. (A.M. session)  
BERNICE E. MARGOLIS, ESQ. (P.M. session)

ALSO PRESENT: Donny A. Sinkov  
Donald Smith

COMPU-TRAN SHORTHAND REPORTING

### ROBERT LEFEVER,

having been duly sworn by Donna Bochnik,  
a Notary Public within and for the State  
of New York, was examined and testified  
as follows:

o o o

### EXAMINATION BY MS. BERG:

Q. State your name and professional  
address for the record, please.

A. My name is Robert LeFever, and my  
professional address is Putnam County Sheriff's  
Department, Three County Center, Carmel,  
New York.

Q. Captain LeFever, I'm Kim Berg. I  
represent the Sinkov family. I'm going to be  
asking you some questions.

What I want you to do is, if there's  
anything I say that you don't understand or if  
you give me an answer during the course of the  
deposition that you feel is incomplete or  
incorrect, please let me know before you leave  
here so that we can make sure we have a complete

COMPU-TRAN SHORTHAND REPORTING

**Robert LeFever**

1  
00:02:18 2 and accurate transcript on all or questions that  
00:02:21 3 I ask you before we leave.  
00:02:24 4 Do you understand all of that?  
00:02:26 5 **A. Yes.**  
00:02:28 6 **Q. Can you describe for me your**  
00:02:30 7 **educational background.**  
00:02:32 8 **A. My educational background - high**  
00:02:34 9 **school graduate, some college; never got a**  
00:02:36 10 **degree. And then I have a lot of training**  
00:02:38 11 **through my years in the sheriff's offices.**  
00:02:40 12 **Q. When did you first begin working for**  
00:02:42 13 **the Putnam County Sheriff's Department?**  
00:02:44 14 **A. October 17th, 1981.**  
00:02:46 15 **Q. Were you hired as a correction**  
00:02:48 16 **officer at that time?**  
00:02:50 17 **A. Yes.**  
00:02:52 18 **Q. And when were you first promoted?**  
00:02:54 19 **A. Don't remember.**  
00:02:56 20 **Q. Was it to sergeant?**  
00:02:58 21 **A. Sergeant was 1986. Lieutenant was**  
00:03:00 22 **1994. And then captain is 2003.**  
00:03:02 23 **Q. And who promoted you to the position**  
00:03:04 24 **of captain?**  
00:03:06 25 **A. Sheriff Smith.**  
**COMPU-TRAN SHORTHAND REPORTING**

**Robert LeFever**

1  
00:04:06 2 **A. No.**  
00:04:08 3 **Q. What are your job duties and**  
00:04:10 4 **responsibilities as captain of the Putnam County**  
00:04:12 5 **Correctional Facility?**  
00:04:14 6 **A. All of the daily operations of the**  
00:04:16 7 **jail, transportation, food service, medical.**  
00:04:18 8 **Q. When you say "daily operation of the**  
00:04:20 9 **jail," what do you mean?**  
00:04:22 10 **A. All of the workings - the bookings,**  
00:04:24 11 **courts, transports, housing units, security.**  
00:04:26 12 **Q. You oversee all of those functions?**  
00:04:28 13 **A. Yes.**  
00:04:30 14 **Q. Do you carry out any responsibilities,**  
00:04:32 15 **yourself, with respect to bookings?**  
00:04:34 16 **A. No.**  
00:04:36 17 **Q. Do you have any responsibilities,**  
00:04:38 18 **yourself, specifically with respect to medical?**  
00:04:40 19 **A. No.**  
00:04:42 20 **Q. In terms of the housing units, do**  
00:04:44 21 **you, from time to time, go through the facility**  
00:04:46 22 **to observe what's going on in the facility?**  
00:04:48 23 **A. Yes.**  
00:04:50 24 **Q. And do you do that on every shift?**  
00:04:52 25 **A. Yes.**  
**COMPU-TRAN SHORTHAND REPORTING**

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**Robert LeFever**

1  
00:05:04 2 **Q. Are you a member of the union as a**  
00:05:06 3 **captain?**  
00:05:08 4 **A. No.**  
00:05:10 5 **Q. Were you a member of the union as a**  
00:05:12 6 **lieutenant?**  
00:05:14 7 **A. No.**  
00:05:16 8 **Q. Does the union with the county and**  
00:05:18 9 **the Sheriff's Department, cover the correction**  
00:05:20 10 **officers and sergeants?**  
00:05:22 11 **A. Yes.**  
00:05:24 12 **Q. Is your position as captain**  
00:05:26 13 **classified within the meaning of New York State**  
00:05:28 14 **Civil Service as far as you know?**  
00:05:30 15 **A. It's management.**  
00:05:32 16 **Q. Is it your understanding that you**  
00:05:34 17 **serve at the pleasure of the appointing**  
00:05:36 18 **authority; namely, the sheriff?**  
00:05:38 19 **A. Yes.**  
00:05:40 20 **Q. Since being promoted to captain in**  
00:05:42 21 **2003, have you been reappointed to that position**  
00:05:44 22 **at all, or have you continuously just remained in**  
00:05:46 23 **that position from your 2003 appointment?**  
00:05:48 24 **A. Remained in that position.**  
00:05:50 25 **Q. Do you have any contract?**  
**COMPU-TRAN SHORTHAND REPORTING**

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**Robert LeFever**

1  
00:05:06 2 **Q. What shift or shifts do you**  
00:05:08 3 **typically work?**  
00:05:10 4 **A. Day shift.**  
00:05:12 5 **Q. What are the hours of that?**  
00:05:14 6 **A. 8:30 to 4:30.**  
00:05:16 7 **Q. And has that been true since you**  
00:05:18 8 **were promoted to captain in 2003?**  
00:05:20 9 **A. Yes.**  
00:05:22 10 **Q. Do you work any set days of the**  
00:05:24 11 **week?**  
00:05:26 12 **A. Monday through Friday.**  
00:05:28 13 **Q. When you're in the facility, are you**  
00:05:30 14 **the highest ranking member of the facility?**  
00:05:32 15 **A. Yes.**  
00:05:34 16 **Q. And when you're not in the facility,**  
00:05:36 17 **who is the highest ranking member?**  
00:05:38 18 **A. The lieutenant.**  
00:05:40 19 **Q. Is the lieutenant there on nights**  
00:05:42 20 **and weekends?**  
00:05:44 21 **A. No.**  
00:05:46 22 **Q. Does the lieutenant also work a**  
00:05:48 23 **Monday-through-Friday shift?**  
00:05:50 24 **A. Yes.**  
00:05:52 25 **Q. Same hours as you?**  
**COMPU-TRAN SHORTHAND REPORTING**

**Robert LeFever****A. Yes.**

**Q.** When it's a night shift or a weekend shift, who is the highest ranking by title; not by name, but who's the highest ranking title in the department?

**A. Sergeant.**

**Q.** Is that person considered the tour supervisor?

**A. Yes.**

**Q.** Do you have any role as captain in decisions involving personnel, such as disciplinary matters, hiring, or firing?

**A. I don't understand the question.**

**Q.** There are subordinates to you in the Putnam County Correctional Facility; correct?

**A. Yes.**

**Q.** Who do you oversee directly?

**A. Everyone in the jail division.**

**Q.** Do you have any responsibility in terms of counseling them or disciplining them in any way?

**A. Directly, no.**

**Q.** How about indirectly?

**A. Yes.**

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**Robert LeFever**

**Q.** What is the indirect relationship?

**A. Through a sergeant.**

**Q.** In terms of the reporting structure, how many lieutenants are there in the Putnam County Correctional Facility?

**A. One.**

**Q.** And who is that?

**A. Lieutenant Patrick O'Malley.**

**Q.** Has he been a lieutenant the entire time that you've been a captain?

**A. I don't remember his appointment date.**

**Q.** Do you recall any other lieutenants that have worked under you as a captain?

**A. No.**

**Q.** Do you have any role in the creation of, or modification of, jail policies?

**A. Policies, no.**

**Q.** How about procedures?

**A. Yes.**

**Q.** What is your role with respect to procedures?

**A. I put most of them out, work on them, put them out.**

COMPU-TRAN SHORTHAND REPORTING

**Robert LeFever**

**Q.** meaning, physically draft them in writing?

**A. Yes.**

**Q.** When you say "put them out," how do you publish them?

**A. They're, you know, computer-generated and printed and put in books out in the units, and we have sergeants.**

**Q.** And what do you do with respect to those procedures and the sergeants?

**A. I'm sorry?**

**Q.** In terms of the sergeants, do you physically give a copy to the sergeant?

**A. Yes.**

**Q.** Do you have any standard practices under which you review those policies, changes, or new procedures with the sergeants?

**A. No.**

**Q.** You just hand them a copy?

**A. Yes.**

**Q.** And in terms of the books, that would be on each housing unit?

**A. Yes.**

**Q.** Are there any other books that you

COMPU-TRAN SHORTHAND REPORTING

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**Robert LeFever**

**Q.** place those procedures into?

**A. Yes; booking.**

**Q.** Anywhere else?

**A. No.**

**Q.** To whom do you report?

**A. Undersheriff.**

**Q.** Since you've been captain, that's been Peter Convery?

**A. Yes.**

**Q.** In terms of your position as captain, do you, on any periodic basis, any regular basis, meet with the undersheriff to discuss what's going on in the jail?

**A. Yes.**

**Q.** And how often do you have those meetings?

**A. Almost every day.**

**Q.** Who else attends those meetings?

**A. Well, it's a staff meeting, a command staff meeting.**

**Q.** And who else is in attendance?

**A. Chief criminal investigator, some senior investigators, civil captain.**

**Q.** So, this would be Putnam County

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1 **Robert LeFever**  
 00:00:26 2 Sheriff's Department employees, as well as jail  
 00:00:29 3 employees?  
 00:00:31 4 **A. Yes.**  
 00:00:34 5 **Q.** Anybody from the jail other than  
 00:00:37 6 yourself?  
 00:00:39 7 **A. Sometimes it's the lieutenant.**  
 00:00:42 8 **Q.** And as part of those daily staff  
 00:00:45 9 meetings, does Sheriff Smith attend?  
 00:00:48 10 **A. Yes.**  
 00:00:51 11 **Q.** And as part of those staff meetings,  
 00:00:54 12 do you discuss anything in terms of procedures in  
 00:00:57 13 the jail?  
 00:01:00 14 **A. No.**  
 00:01:03 15 **Q.** Anything about any new procedures or  
 00:01:06 16 modified procedures?  
 00:01:09 17 **A. No.**  
 00:01:12 18 **Q.** On the occasions that you've  
 00:01:15 19 modified or issued new procedures, have you done  
 00:01:18 20 that without consulting with anybody?  
 00:01:21 21 **A. No.**  
 00:01:24 22 **Q.** Who have you consulted with?  
 00:01:27 23 **A. My staff in the jail, Commission of**  
 00:01:30 24 **Corrections.**  
 00:01:33 25 **Q.** Anybody else?  
 COMPU-TRAN SHORTHAND REPORTING

1 **Robert LeFever**  
 00:01:12 2 **Q.** Do you recall anything about the  
 00:01:15 3 substance of those?  
 00:01:18 4 **A. Not offhand, no.**  
 00:01:21 5 **Q.** Do you recall anything as to what  
 00:01:24 6 they related to?  
 00:01:27 7 **A. No, I can't recall.**  
 00:01:30 8 **Q.** On the occasions that the sheriff  
 00:01:33 9 has issued new policies since you've been captain  
 00:01:36 10 in 2003, how did you become aware of that?  
 00:01:39 11 **A. They're issued to everyone. You**  
 00:01:42 12 **sign for it, and it goes in your manual.**  
 00:01:45 13 **Q.** And do you have a responsibility, in  
 00:01:48 14 terms of your role as captain, in distributing  
 00:01:51 15 the sheriff's policies to your subordinates?  
 00:01:54 16 **A. Yes.**  
 00:01:57 17 **Q.** And it would be in the same method  
 00:02:00 18 or something different?  
 00:02:03 19 **A. Same method.**  
 00:02:06 20 **Q.** Do you physically issue the policies  
 00:02:09 21 to each individual employee, or does it just go  
 00:02:12 22 into the books on the units?  
 00:02:15 23 **A. No; the policy is issued to each**  
 00:02:18 24 **person, not by myself.**  
 00:02:21 25 **Q.** But you would give it to your  
 COMPU-TRAN SHORTHAND REPORTING

14  
 1 **Robert LeFever**  
 00:10:12 2 **A. Not that I can recall.**  
 00:10:15 3 **Q.** Did you notify anybody higher than  
 00:10:18 4 you in the chain of command that you were issuing  
 00:10:21 5 any policies -- or, I'm sorry, any procedures?  
 00:10:24 6 **A. I don't recall.**  
 00:10:27 7 **Q.** In your view, what's the difference  
 00:10:30 8 between a policy and a procedure?  
 00:10:33 9 **A. A policy states the goal and mission**  
 00:10:36 10 **of what we're to do, and a procedure is the**  
 00:10:39 11 **day-to-day functioning of how to do it.**  
 00:10:42 12 **Q.** So, it would be how to carry out the  
 00:10:45 13 policies that are in place?  
 00:10:48 14 **A. Correct.**  
 00:10:51 15 **Q.** Who, in terms of the policies, has  
 00:10:54 16 the authority to issue those?  
 00:10:57 17 **A. I believe it's only the sheriff.**  
 00:11:00 18 **Q.** And you base that on your experience  
 00:11:03 19 with the Putnam County Correctional Facility  
 00:11:06 20 since 1981?  
 00:11:09 21 **A. Yes.**  
 00:11:12 22 **Q.** Since you've been captain, have  
 00:11:15 23 there been any new policies issued by the sheriff  
 00:11:18 24 as far as you can recall?  
 00:11:21 25 **A. Yes.**  
 COMPU-TRAN SHORTHAND REPORTING

16  
 1 **Robert LeFever**  
 00:12:04 2 subordinates to issue down the chain of command?  
 00:12:07 3 **A. Yes.**  
 00:12:10 4 **Q.** Do you recall, in connection with  
 00:12:13 5 any of the staff meetings that you've attended,  
 00:12:16 6 any conversations about any changes in policies  
 00:12:19 7 and procedures since 2003?  
 00:12:22 8 **A. No.**  
 00:12:25 9 **Q.** Did you attend the staff meetings  
 00:12:28 10 when you were lieutenant?  
 00:12:31 11 **A. Yes.**  
 00:12:34 12 **Q.** Do you recall, as you sit here  
 00:12:37 13 today, anything that you consulted with the  
 00:12:40 14 Commission of Correction on with respect to any  
 00:12:43 15 new procedures?  
 00:12:46 16 **A. Yeah. There was the use of suicide**  
 00:12:49 17 **smocks, lobby kiosks. A few others that I can't**  
 00:12:52 18 **recall right now.**  
 00:12:55 19 **Q.** When did you consult with the  
 00:12:58 20 Commission with respect to the suicide smocks?  
 00:13:01 21 **A. Within the last six months.**  
 00:13:04 22 **Q.** And what, if anything, prompted you  
 00:13:07 23 to do that?  
 00:13:10 24 **A. They put out a Chairman's Memorandum**  
 00:13:13 25 **stating that they didn't want them used at all.**  
 COMPU-TRAN SHORTHAND REPORTING



**Robert LeFever**

1  
2 **We don't use them, and they don't want them**  
3 **used. And then there was some discussion on that**  
4 **with them.**

5 **Q.** Do you recall that the Chairman's  
6 Memorandum referred to whether or not the suicide  
7 smock needed to be used if somebody was under  
8 constant supervision?

9 **A.** It was in regards to that, yes.

10 **Q.** And in substance, did the memorandum  
11 communicate that if somebody's under constant  
12 supervision, a suicide smock is really  
13 unnecessary because they're having a visual one-  
14 on-one observation?

15 **A.** Yes, I believe it was.

16 **Q.** And do you recall who you consulted  
17 with at the Commission?

18 **A.** No, I don't.

19 **Q.** How is it that you've become aware  
20 of these Chairman's Memorandums?

21 **A.** They're mailed to all the jail  
22 administrators in the state.

23 **Q.** So, does one come directly to you?

24 **A.** Yes.

25 **Q.** Do you know if anybody else in the

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**Robert LeFever**

1  
2 county or the Sheriff's Department receives  
3 copies of those Chairman's Memorandums?

4 **A.** I don't.

5 **Q.** Do you share them with anybody?

6 **A.** My staff.

7 **Q.** When you say your staff, who do you  
8 mean?

9 **A.** The lieutenant, the administrative  
10 sergeant, and the sergeants are advised if  
11 there's a change.

12 **Q.** And do you know if those Chairman  
13 Memorandums are available to the public?

14 **A.** I don't know.

15 **Q.** Have you ever been on the  
16 Commission's website?

17 **A.** Yes.

18 **Q.** And did you ever see those Chairman  
19 Memorandums posted there?

20 **A.** I never looked for them.

21 **Q.** Did you ever have occasion to  
22 discuss the substance of any Chairman Memorandum  
23 with people above you in the chain of command,  
24 either at a staff meeting or otherwise?

25 **A.** No.

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**Robert LeFever**

1  
2 **Q.** As a result of your communications  
3 with the Commission about the issue of suicide  
4 smocks, were there any changes in policies or  
5 procedures?

6 **A.** No.

7 **Q.** What, if any, policies or procedures  
8 exist with respect to suicide smocks in the  
9 Putnam County Correctional Facility?

10 **A.** None.

11 **Q.** You don't use them?

12 **A.** We do not use them.

13 **Q.** Anything else that you can recall  
14 consulting with the Commission on, about anything  
15 pertaining to suicide prevention?

16 **A.** No.

17 **Q.** Did you ever see the form -- not  
18 necessarily the handwriting, but the form that  
19 was previously marked as Exhibit 3? (Handing)

20 **A.** Yes.

21 **Q.** And what is that form?

22 **A.** This form is the Suicide Prevention  
23 Screening form that we use in the facility.

24 **Q.** And for how long has that form been  
25 in use?

COMPU-TRAN SHORTHAND REPORTING

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**Robert LeFever**

1  
2 **A.** At least 15 years.

3 **Q.** And it's referred to as an SOJ-32?

4 **A.** Yes.

5 **Q.** Do you know who created that form?

6 **A.** I put most of it together.

7 **Q.** Did anybody assist you?

8 **A.** Yes.

9 **Q.** Who?

10 **A.** That would be Captain -- Former-  
11 Captain Gerald Butler.

12 **Q.** Were you a lieutenant at the time?

13 **A.** No; I was a staff sergeant at the  
14 time.

15 **Q.** Why, as staff sergeant, were you  
16 involved in putting that form together?

17 **A.** I was -- at that time there was no  
18 lieutenant. That was the next administrator at  
19 the time.

20 **Q.** And what, if anything, prompted you  
21 to put together that form approximately 15 years  
22 ago?

23 **A.** We were putting our medical  
24 screening form together, and we were making it  
25 into a four-page format, and that's what made us

COMPU-TRAN SHORTHAND REPORTING

02/12/2008 01:45:23 PM

**Robert LeFever****Robert LeFever**

1  
00:16:24 2 put it together.  
00:16:27 3 Q. Prior to that, was there any suicide  
00:16:30 4 screening type form or questions that were posed  
00:16:33 5 to inmates at intake?  
00:17:03 6 A. No.  
00:17:05 7 Q. And this was the first time it was  
00:17:07 8 being created?  
00:17:08 9 A. Yes.  
00:17:09 10 Q. And was there anything at that time,  
00:17:11 11 either in a Chairman's Memorandum or elsewhere,  
00:17:12 12 that prompted you to look at that in  
00:17:14 13 approximately 1992?  
00:17:16 14 A. I don't remember.  
00:17:21 15 Q. Do you recall if at that time there  
00:17:23 16 was any training that was being given to you or  
00:17:25 17 other members of the jail with respect to suicide  
00:17:26 18 prevention?  
00:17:28 19 A. Yes. It had just started.  
00:17:30 20 Q. So, it started at or about that  
00:17:32 21 time?  
00:17:33 22 A. Yes.  
00:17:35 23 Q. And is that something, then, that  
00:17:37 24 caused you to put this form together?  
00:17:39 25 A. Yes.

COMPU-TRAN SHORTHAND REPORTING

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**Robert LeFever**

00:17:39 2 Q. Whose determination was it to start  
00:17:40 3 training administrators and officers with respect  
00:17:42 4 to suicide prevention?  
00:17:47 5 A. State Commission of Corrections.  
00:17:49 6 Q. And how did you know about that?  
00:17:50 7 A. I don't remember the exact way we  
00:17:52 8 found out, but they told us we had to do it. It  
00:17:54 9 was a new thing.  
00:17:56 10 Q. And what, if anything, was done at  
00:18:04 11 that time with respect to having officers,  
00:18:07 12 correction officers, trained?  
00:18:09 13 A. We started training them.  
00:18:11 14 Q. Did somebody in the facility have to  
00:18:13 15 go to a training course so that they could learn  
00:18:15 16 how to train their subordinates?  
00:18:17 17 A. Yes.  
00:18:18 18 Q. Who did that?  
00:18:19 19 A. Thomas Green.  
00:18:21 20 Q. Who did it from the facility?  
00:18:23 21 A. Thomas Green.  
00:18:25 22 Q. Oh, he was --  
00:18:27 23 A. Yeah. He went to a Commission of  
00:18:29 24 Corrections training session.  
00:18:31 25 Q. Did you ever go to that training

COMPU-TRAN SHORTHAND REPORTING

1  
00:16:31 2 session?  
00:16:31 3 A. No.  
00:16:31 4 Q. Since then, have others gone to the  
00:16:33 5 training?  
00:16:35 6 A. Yes.  
00:16:35 7 Q. Who currently does the training for  
00:16:38 8 the jail?  
00:16:39 9 A. Lieutenant O'Malley.  
00:16:42 10 Q. Anyone else?  
00:16:43 11 A. Sergeant James Guarino, Officer  
00:16:47 12 William Spinelli, and Officer Michael Vilani.  
00:16:54 13 Q. Have you ever attended suicide  
00:16:56 14 training?  
00:16:58 15 A. Yes.  
00:16:59 16 Q. On how many occasions?  
00:17:00 17 A. Twenty.  
00:17:02 18 Q. When was the last time that you  
00:17:04 19 attended?  
00:17:06 20 A. Maybe last year.  
00:17:07 21 Q. And do you attend it with these  
00:17:08 22 correction officers?  
00:17:11 23 A. Yes.  
00:17:13 24 Q. Has the form, Exhibit 3, been  
00:17:15 25 modified at all since you first put it together

COMPU-TRAN SHORTHAND REPORTING

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**Robert LeFever**

00:17:20 2 back in 1992?  
00:17:22 3 A. No.  
00:17:24 4 Q. When you put that form together, did  
00:17:26 5 you consult with anybody other than Captain  
00:17:28 6 Butler?  
00:17:30 7 A. I don't remember.  
00:17:32 8 Q. Do you recall if you consulted with  
00:17:34 9 anybody from the Commission?  
00:17:36 10 A. Don't remember.  
00:17:38 11 Q. Have you ever had occasion to  
00:17:40 12 discuss that form with anybody in the Smith  
00:17:42 13 administration?  
00:17:44 14 A. No.  
00:17:46 15 Q. Undersheriff Convery, or anybody  
00:17:48 16 else?  
00:17:50 17 A. No.  
00:17:52 18 Q. What is the purpose of the Suicide  
00:17:54 19 Prevention Screening form?  
00:17:56 20 A. The purpose is to identify those  
00:17:58 21 individuals that are high-risk of hurting  
00:18:00 22 themselves or hurting others.  
00:18:02 23 Q. And how does that form achieve that  
00:18:04 24 purpose?  
00:18:06 25 A. By going through the questions and

COMPU-TRAN SHORTHAND REPORTING

**Robert LeFever**

1 looking at what their demeanor is, the answers to  
2 the questions, and making a decision.

3 Q. And in terms of the answers to the  
4 questions at the bottom, there's a section that  
5 refers to the total of Column A.

6 Do you see that?

7 A. Yes, yes.

8 Q. And how, if at all, does that relate  
9 to determining if somebody is at high-risk for  
10 hurting themselves?

11 A. Well, an eight or more is on  
12 automatic constant watch; but anything less than  
13 an eight is subjective.

14 Q. And who makes that subjective  
15 determination?

16 A. Whoever's doing the form.

17 Q. Who, in the Putnam County  
18 Correctional Facility, has the authority to  
19 complete that form?

20 A. Anyone that's trained in the suicide  
21 prevention screening.

22 Q. What level of staff would that be?

23 A. Correction officer.

24 Q. Could it be a sergeant, also?

COMPU-TRAN SHORTHAND REPORTING

26

**Robert LeFever**

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. There also are medical staff in the  
3 facility; correct?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Do they complete the SOJ-32, as well?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Have they ever had any role in  
8 completing that?

9 A. No.

10 Q. And for how long has it been --  
11 withdrawn.

12 You said eight or more in the total  
13 column is an automatic constant watch.

14 Constant watch is a one-on-one  
15 supervision?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And is what you just testified to,  
18 eight or more being an automatic constant watch,  
19 in any policy or procedure in the Putnam County  
20 Correctional Facility?

21 A. It's not written down, but it's  
22 trained that way.

23 Q. And when you say "it's trained that  
24 way," you mean in the in-service training that

COMPU-TRAN SHORTHAND REPORTING

7 of 73 sheets

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**Robert LeFever**

1 the staff receives?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. When was the first time that you  
4 personally attended any training, during which  
5 you were told by a training officer that if  
6 somebody scored eight or more in the total  
7 column, that they would automatically be placed  
8 on a constant watch?

9 A. 1988, I believe.

10 Q. And has that been reiterated at  
11 every training session that you've attended in  
12 the approximately less-than 20 years?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Does Putnam County Correctional  
15 Facility have any policies which say, in words or  
16 substance, anything about that suicide screening  
17 form?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. What do those policies provide?

20 A. I believe it's Article 14. I don't  
21 remember the article title.

22 Q. What is the substance of it?

23 A. It talks about the Suicide Screening  
24 Prevention form, using it, implementing it.

COMPU-TRAN SHORTHAND REPORTING

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**Robert LeFever**

1 Q. Does it provide a correction officer  
2 or sergeant with any guidance in terms of what to  
3 do with respect to the total score on the form?

4 A. No.

5 Q. There are also a number of shaded  
6 boxes on that form.

7 Do you see that?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Are there any policies, practices or  
10 procedures with respect to what happens if a  
11 shaded box is checked?

12 A. No.

13 Q. In your training, have you ever been  
14 instructed, as part of these in-service courses  
15 that you've attended, as to what to do if a  
16 shaded box is checked?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Is there anything in this Article 14, or  
19 whatever number the policy is, about the shaded  
20 boxes?

21 A. I don't believe so.

22 Q. Is there anything in terms of those  
23 shaded boxes if one or more, two or more, three  
24 or more, four or more, anything along those lines

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02/12/2008 01:45:23 PM



1 **Robert LeFever**  
 00:24:53 2 are checked, that then mandates the booking  
 00:24:57 3 officer or sergeant to do something?  
 00:25:01 4 **A. No.**  
 00:25:05 5 **Q. Do you have any understanding, as**  
 00:25:17 6 **you sit here today, as to why some of those boxes**  
 00:25:20 7 **are shaded?**  
 00:25:21 8 **A. Don't remember.**  
 00:25:25 9 **Q. And in terms of the form, that is**  
 00:25:33 10 **administered at the intake of an inmate?**  
 00:25:35 11 **A. Yes.**  
 00:25:36 12 **Q. And who in the facility actually**  
 00:25:38 13 **administers the form?**  
 00:25:39 14 **A. The correction officer.**  
 00:25:42 15 **Q. Would they be assigned to the**  
 00:25:44 16 **booking officer position?**  
 00:25:45 17 **A. Yes.**  
 00:25:45 18 **Q. And have you ever known a sergeant**  
 00:25:46 19 **to administer the suicide prevention form?**  
 00:25:51 20 **A. Yes.**  
 00:25:51 21 **Q. Are there any requirements that are**  
 00:25:53 22 **in writing as far as you know that, with respect**  
 00:25:53 23 **to the total column, if it reaches a certain**  
 00:25:58 24 **threshold, a supervisor must be notified?**  
 00:25:59 25 **A. Yes.**  
 COMPU-TRAN SHORTHAND REPORTING

30

1 **Robert LeFever**  
 00:26:11 2 **Q. And what is your understanding of**  
 00:26:12 3 **those requirements?**  
 00:26:13 4 **A. Eight or more.**  
 00:26:13 5 **Q. And where is that contained?**  
 00:26:14 6 **A. It's in the articles -- the policy.**  
 00:26:16 7 **Q. In Putnam County Correctional**  
 00:26:18 8 **Facility policy?**  
 00:26:19 9 **A. Yes.**  
 00:26:19 10 **Q. And in terms of the policy, does it**  
 00:26:26 11 **say anything as to what the supervisor is**  
 00:26:28 12 **supposed to do once notified of a score of eight**  
 00:26:30 13 **or more?**  
 00:26:31 14 **A. No.**  
 00:26:32 15 **Q. Does the policy or procedure say**  
 00:26:34 16 **anything about what this notification should be**  
 00:26:36 17 **in terms of whether it needs to be verbal or**  
 00:26:38 18 **written, what form it should take?**  
 00:26:39 19 **A. No.**  
 00:26:40 20 **Q. Can it be verbal or written?**  
 00:26:41 21 **A. It has to be written.**  
 00:26:42 22 **Q. Where is that contained, if**  
 00:26:43 23 **anywhere?**  
 00:26:44 24 **A. I don't remember.**  
 00:26:45 25 **Q. Do you know of anything in writing**  
 COMPU-TRAN SHORTHAND REPORTING

1 **Robert LeFever**  
 00:27:04 2 that says that notification to the supervisor of  
 00:27:07 3 a score of eight or more has to be in writing?  
 00:27:09 4 **A. Not that I can recall.**  
 00:27:12 5 **Q. In terms of the training that you've**  
 00:27:13 6 **attended since in or about 1988, have you been,**  
 00:27:14 7 **as part of that training, instructed to notify a**  
 00:27:15 8 **supervisor if the score is eight or more?**  
 00:27:16 9 **A. Yes.**  
 00:27:17 10 **Q. And as part of that training, did**  
 00:27:18 11 **anybody ever explain to you why notification to**  
 00:27:19 12 **the supervisor should happen under those**  
 00:27:20 13 **circumstances?**  
 00:27:21 14 **A. Don't remember.**  
 00:27:22 15 **Q. What is your understanding, in terms**  
 00:27:23 16 **of your experience with the Putnam County**  
 00:27:24 17 **Correctional Facility for over 30 years, as to**  
 00:27:25 18 **why -- or approximately 30 years, as to why the**  
 00:27:26 19 **notification to the supervisor should happen if a**  
 00:27:27 20 **score is eight or more?**  
 00:27:28 21 **A. Well, because it just raises the**  
 00:27:29 22 **flag of the person -- you have a person that's at**  
 00:27:30 23 **high-risk.**  
 00:27:31 24 **Q. If the policy and the training is**  
 00:27:32 25 **that a score of eight or more mandates continuous**  
 COMPU-TRAN SHORTHAND REPORTING

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1 **Robert LeFever**  
 00:28:28 2 watch, then what's the reason for notifying a  
 00:28:30 3 supervisor?  
 00:28:31 4 **A. That's what the training says.**  
 00:28:32 5 **Q. It's not the policy or procedure?**  
 00:28:33 6 **A. It's also in our policy, but the**  
 00:28:34 7 **training also says eight or more, a supervisor is**  
 00:28:35 8 **notified.**  
 00:28:36 9 **Q. Okay. But my question, though, is:**  
 00:28:37 10 **If, under those circumstances, constant watch is**  
 00:28:38 11 **an automatic, why then is notification to a**  
 00:28:39 12 **supervisor necessary?**  
 00:28:40 13 **A. Because the sergeant is responsible**  
 00:28:41 14 **for the entire shift, for setting up the constant**  
 00:28:42 15 **watch, getting someone to -- you know, overtime,**  
 00:28:43 16 **moving staff around, notifying medical, doing a**  
 00:28:44 17 **referral form.**  
 00:28:45 18 **Q. What is the notification to medical?**  
 00:28:46 19 **A. It's a routing sheet. I forget the**  
 00:28:47 20 **number on it. It's a Mental Health Routing**  
 00:28:48 21 **Sheet.**  
 00:28:49 22 **Q. And what is the purpose of the**  
 00:28:50 23 **Mental Health Routing Sheet?**  
 00:28:51 24 **A. To notify medical that someone's on**  
 00:28:52 25 **a constant watch and that an evaluation will be**  
 COMPU-TRAN SHORTHAND REPORTING

**Robert LeFever**

1  
2 needed to see if they should stay on the constant  
3 watch.  
4 Q. And who can make the determination  
5 as to whether somebody needs to stay on a  
6 constant watch?  
7 A. It would be psychiatric.  
8 Q. So, once somebody is placed on a  
9 constant watch, is it only the psychiatrist who  
10 can remove that person from constant watch?  
11 A. Or a licensed clinical social  
12 worker, yes.  
13 Q. And other than a sergeant, can  
14 anybody else complete the Mental Health Routing  
15 Sheet?  
16 A. Yes.  
17 Q. Who?  
18 A. Anyone.  
19 Q. So, a correction officer can do  
20 that, too?  
21 A. Yes.  
22 Q. And is that done at booking?  
23 A. Yes.  
24 Q. And in terms of notification to  
25 medical, other than completing the Mental Health

COMPU-TRAN SHORTHAND REPORTING

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**Robert LeFever**

1  
2 Routing Sheet, does the notification to medical  
3 take any other form?  
4 A. Verbal.  
5 Q. And that would be to a nurse that's  
6 on staff at that time?  
7 A. Yes.  
8 Q. Any other form of notification to  
9 medical?  
10 A. No.  
11 Q. In terms of the Mental Health  
12 Routing Sheet, have you known those to be --  
13 withdrawn.  
14 Is the Mental Health Routing Sheet  
15 for somebody who's placed on a constant watch  
16 required to be filled out?  
17 A. Yes. Yes.  
18 Q. And it's required to be filled out  
19 at booking?  
20 A. Not necessarily at that moment.  
21 Q. Within that person's shift, though?  
22 A. Yes.  
23 Q. And in terms of written procedures  
24 or policies, is there anything that refers to  
25 that requirement that the Mental Health Routing

COMPU-TRAN SHORTHAND REPORTING

**Robert LeFever**

1  
2 Sheet be completed if somebody is on a constant  
3 watch?  
4 A. Don't remember.  
5 Q. Has that ever been part of the  
6 training that you've attended?  
7 A. Yes.  
8 Q. For all of those years?  
9 A. Not all of those years.  
10 Q. Or just something recent?  
11 A. Ten years.  
12 Q. Other than when somebody is placed  
13 on a constant watch, is the Mental Health Routing  
14 Sheet required to be completed in any other  
15 cases?  
16 A. Yes.  
17 Q. When?  
18 A. If -- there's several points on  
19 there - if they're crying, they look depressed,  
20 they make a statement - then it's required that  
21 an officer fills it out and submits one.  
22 Q. Any other circumstances?  
23 A. A hunch.  
24 Q. Meaning, a hunch that somebody might  
25 harm themselves?

COMPU-TRAN SHORTHAND REPORTING

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**Robert LeFever**

1  
2 A. Yes.  
3 Q. If somebody is placed on a 15-minute  
4 supervisory visit, is a Mental Health Routing  
5 Sheet required?  
6 A. Yes.  
7 Q. That would be in all cases?  
8 A. Yes.  
9 Q. And would that be, again, for  
10 purposes of notifying medical?  
11 A. Yes.  
12 Q. And who has the authority to remove  
13 somebody from a 15-minute supervisory watch?  
14 A. For which reason?  
15 Q. What do you mean?  
16 A. Medical or mental health?  
17 Q. Mental health.  
18 A. It would be the social worker.  
19 Q. And is the Mental Health Routing  
20 Sheet required to be done either at intake or  
21 within that person's shift for a 15-minute watch?  
22 A. Yes.  
23 Q. And who actually receives the Mental  
24 Health Routing Sheet?  
25 A. Medical.

COMPU-TRAN SHORTHAND REPORTING

**Robert LeFever**

1  
00:32:55 2 Q. And with respect to the 15-minute  
00:33:02 3 watch, is it also a correction officer or  
00:33:09 4 sergeant who would complete that form?  
00:33:16 5 A. Yes.  
00:33:23 6 Q. Have you ever known staff from the  
00:33:30 7 medical department to complete the Mental Health  
00:33:37 8 Routing Sheet?  
00:33:44 9 A. Yes.  
00:33:51 10 Q. Under what circumstances?  
00:33:58 11 A. Maybe it's a verbal. You know, a  
00:34:05 12 hunch thing - I saw something - and medical would  
00:34:12 13 start it.  
00:34:19 14 Q. So, that could be at some point  
00:34:26 15 including intake?  
00:34:33 16 A. No; it would be after intake.  
00:34:40 17 Q. So, it would be after the person,  
00:34:47 18 the inmate, receives a cell assignment?  
00:34:54 19 A. Yes.  
00:35:01 20 Q. And with respect to the Mental  
00:35:08 21 Health Routing Sheet being required when somebody  
00:35:15 22 is placed on a 15-minute watch, is that in any  
00:35:22 23 written policy or procedure in the jail?  
00:35:29 24 A. I don't remember.  
00:35:36 25 Q. Do you recall if that's been part of  
COMPU-TRAN SHORTHAND REPORTING

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**Robert LeFever**

1  
00:35:43 2 the training that you've received?  
00:35:50 3 A. Yes.  
00:35:57 4 Q. Has that been true for the last ten  
00:36:04 5 years or so?  
00:36:11 6 A. Yes.  
00:36:18 7 Q. Who, if you know, made the  
00:36:25 8 determination that if the score was eight or  
00:36:32 9 higher on the form, that an automatic constant  
00:36:39 10 watch is instituted?  
00:36:46 11 A. Don't remember.  
00:36:53 12 Q. And do you have any understanding as  
00:37:00 13 to why that number was chosen?  
00:37:07 14 A. Because that was the notification of  
00:37:14 15 the supervisor. I think that was just the cut  
00:37:21 16 off.  
00:37:28 17 Q. Do you know if, for example, that  
00:37:35 18 was set forth by the Commission of Correction at  
00:37:42 19 any time?  
00:37:49 20 A. It's not by the Commission, no.  
00:37:56 21 Q. It's not?  
00:38:03 22 A. No.  
00:38:10 23 Q. Did you ever come to learn of any  
00:38:17 24 standards or guidelines that the Commission has  
00:38:24 25 published with respect to somebody scoring eight  
COMPU-TRAN SHORTHAND REPORTING

**Robert LeFever**

1  
00:34:54 2 or higher on the Suicide Prevention Screening  
00:34:59 3 form?  
00:35:06 4 A. I don't understand the question.  
00:35:13 5 Q. In other words, the Commission of  
00:35:20 6 Correction, you're aware, has published minimum  
00:35:27 7 standards.  
00:35:34 8 A. Yes.  
00:35:41 9 Q. And did you ever come to learn at  
00:35:48 10 any point in time of any interpretation of those  
00:35:55 11 standards, which says if somebody scores eight or  
00:36:02 12 higher, they should be placed on a constant  
00:36:09 13 watch?  
00:36:16 14 A. No.  
00:36:23 15 Q. As part of your training and  
00:36:30 16 experience, was there any difference ever  
00:36:37 17 explained to you between somebody who is, quote,  
00:36:44 18 "suicidal" and somebody who is at high-risk for  
00:36:51 19 suicide --  
00:36:58 20 A. Yes.  
00:37:05 21 Q. -- or are they one in the same?  
00:37:12 22 A. One in the same.  
00:37:19 23 Q. In terms of placing an inmate on  
00:37:26 24 constant watch if the score is eight or higher,  
00:37:33 25 can a correction officer in the Putnam County  
COMPU-TRAN SHORTHAND REPORTING

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**Robert LeFever**

1  
00:38:03 2 Correctional Facility make that decision on his  
00:38:10 3 own?  
00:38:17 4 A. Yes.  
00:38:24 5 Q. If you would just take a look at  
00:38:31 6 Exhibit 2. (Handing)  
00:38:38 7 A. (Witness complies)  
00:38:45 8 Q. Do you recognize that document?  
00:38:52 9 A. Yes.  
00:38:59 10 Q. Is this referred to as Article 15?  
00:39:06 11 A. Yes.  
00:39:13 12 Q. Earlier, when you testified about  
00:39:20 13 certain procedures or policies being contained in  
00:39:27 14 Article 14, do you recall if it was Article 15  
00:39:34 15 that you were, in fact, referring to?  
00:39:41 16 A. Yes.  
00:39:48 17 Q. It was?  
00:39:55 18 A. (Witness nods head)  
00:40:02 19 Q. You have to say yes or no.  
00:40:09 20 A. Yes, Article 15.  
00:40:16 21 Q. And for how long has this --  
00:40:23 22 withdrawn.  
00:40:30 23 Do you know who drafted this policy?  
00:40:37 24 A. No, I do not.  
00:40:44 25 Q. Do you know for how long this policy  
COMPU-TRAN SHORTHAND REPORTING

**Robert LeFever**

1  
00:35:45 2 has been in place?  
00:36:48 3 **A. 1988.**  
00:37:00 4 **Q. At least or before then?**  
00:37:05 5 **A. The Suicide Prevention Screening**  
00:36:55 6 **only started in 1987.**  
00:36:53 7 **Q. And did you have any role in**  
00:36:55 8 **drafting this policy?**  
00:36:55 9 **A. No.**  
00:36:55 10 **Q. In terms of new hires; is this**  
00:37:00 11 **policy provided to new hires?**  
00:37:02 12 **A. Yes.**  
00:37:02 13 **Q. In every case?**  
00:37:05 14 **A. Yes.**  
00:37:04 15 **Q. And where is it, if at all,**  
00:37:06 16 **maintained in the facility?**  
00:37:07 17 **A. In the computer base.**  
00:37:12 18 **Q. Is it contained in any books?**  
00:37:13 19 **A. No; each officer signs for a manual.**  
00:37:18 20 **Q. So, it would be in the officer's**  
00:37:21 21 **Policy Manual?**  
00:37:22 22 **A. Yes.**  
00:37:22 23 **Q. Is that sometimes referred to as a**  
00:37:25 24 **Red Book?**  
00:37:25 25 **A. Red Book, yes.**

COMPU-TRAN SHORTHAND REPORTING

42

**Robert LeFever**

00:37:25 2 **Q. And there's no copy of this policy,**  
00:37:32 3 **then, in, you know, hard form in the jail?**  
00:37:38 4 **A. No.**  
00:37:39 5 **Q. Has this policy, as far as you know,**  
00:37:44 6 **been changed at all since 1988?**  
00:37:46 7 **A. No.**  
00:37:47 8 **Q. No, it hasn't; or no, you don't**  
00:37:48 9 **know?**  
00:37:49 10 **A. No, it has not been changed.**  
00:37:50 11 **Q. Have you ever been involved in any**  
00:37:52 12 **discussion with respect to modifying this?**  
00:37:54 13 **A. No, I have not.**  
00:37:54 14 **Q. In terms of the policy under Section**  
00:37:58 15 **15-2, Admission Screening Policy, do you see that**  
00:38:02 16 **section, first page?**  
00:38:02 17 **A. Yes, um-hum.**  
00:38:03 18 **Q. "Facility personnel will make a**  
00:38:10 19 **conscious effort to identify highly suicidal**  
00:38:13 20 **prisoners and/or prisoners with serious mental**  
00:38:17 21 **health problems."**  
00:38:18 22 **Do you see that?**  
00:38:18 23 **A. Yes.**  
00:38:18 24 **Q. In terms of your experience,**  
00:38:21 25 **training, or otherwise, is the highly suicidal**

COMPU-TRAN SHORTHAND REPORTING

**Robert LeFever**

00:38:27 2 **prisoner so... body who scores eight or higher?**  
00:38:29 3 **A. Not necessarily.**  
00:38:33 4 **Q. Would that be somebody who's**  
00:38:32 5 **considered to be a highly suicidal prisoner, if**  
00:38:35 6 **they scored eight or higher?**  
00:38:36 7 **A. Yes.**  
00:38:36 8 **Q. And in what other circumstances**  
00:38:37 9 **would the person be considered a highly suicidal**  
00:38:40 10 **prisoner?**  
00:38:41 11 **A. Well, if they answered the one**  
00:38:43 12 **question, Nine, do you feel like -- "Do you think**  
00:38:45 13 **about killing yourself," that would be highly**  
00:38:48 14 **suicidal. And again, it's subjective under**  
00:38:52 15 **eight.**  
00:38:53 16 **Q. Letter (a), underneath that, has**  
00:39:03 17 **"Responsibilities of the booking officer;"**  
00:39:05 18 **correct?**  
00:39:05 19 **A. Okay.**  
00:39:08 20 **Q. Do you see that?**  
00:39:08 21 **A. Yes.**  
00:39:07 22 **Q. And if you turn the page, (b) says,**  
00:39:13 23 **"Administration of Suicide Prevention Screening**  
00:39:15 24 **Guidelines --" I think it should be 'form,' but**  
00:39:18 25 **it says 'for,' -- Number 330 ADM."**

COMPU-TRAN SHORTHAND REPORTING

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**Robert LeFever**

00:39:22 2 **Do you see that?**  
00:39:23 3 **A. Yes.**  
00:39:23 4 **Q. Did you ever see the 330 ADM?**  
00:39:27 5 **A. Yes.**  
00:39:27 6 **Q. Under what circumstances?**  
00:39:28 7 **A. In the beginning, in training.**  
00:39:27 8 **Q. And when you say "in the beginning,"**  
00:39:28 9 **you mean in 1988?**  
00:39:29 10 **A. Yes.**  
00:39:30 11 **Q. And when you say "in training," has**  
00:39:33 12 **that been at every training session you've**  
00:39:37 13 **attended?**  
00:39:39 14 **A. I believe so.**  
00:39:40 15 **Q. And just for the record, can you**  
00:39:44 16 **tell me if that form that you saw in training was**  
00:39:47 17 **Exhibit 1? (Handing)**  
00:39:49 18 **A. Yes.**  
00:39:50 19 **Q. And is Exhibit 1, the 330 ADM,**  
00:39:58 20 **provided to the staff at the training?**  
00:40:00 21 **A. No.**  
00:40:10 22 **Q. It's just shown to them?**  
00:40:12 23 **A. Yes.**  
00:40:12 24 **Q. On some kind of an overhead?**  
00:40:14 25 **A. Yes.**

COMPU-TRAN SHORTHAND REPORTING



Robert LeFever

1  
2 Q. And as part of the training that  
3 you've attended, has anybody ever explained the  
4 difference between that form, the ADM 330, and  
5 the Putnam County's form, the SOJ-32?  
6 A. Not that I can recall.  
7 Q. In terms of the booking officer's  
8 responsibility, the policy that's before you as  
9 Exhibit 2, Article 15, says that in Number 3,  
10 "The booking officer has to immediately notify  
11 the tour supervisor whenever a prisoner scores in  
12 the high risk score of eight in column eight, or  
13 immediate-referral categories on the suicide  
14 prevention form."  
15 Do you see that?  
16 A. Yes.  
17 Q. What are the immediate referral  
18 categories on the Suicide Prevention Screening  
19 form?  
20 A. I have no idea.  
21 Q. Did anybody ever give you any  
22 training or instruction on that?  
23 A. No.  
24 Q. Under Number 3, small letter (c),  
25 "Immediately notify the tour supervisor whenever  
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Robert LeFever

1  
2 a prisoner appears to be significantly under the  
3 influence of alcohol or drugs."  
4 Do you see that?  
5 A. Yes.  
6 Q. Are you aware of any policies or  
7 procedures in the Putnam County Correctional  
8 Facility with respect to inmates who come in  
9 under the influence of alcohol or drugs?  
10 A. Yes.  
11 Q. What are you aware of?  
12 A. We use the medical contractors  
13 procedures for that.  
14 Q. And who is that? AmeriCor?  
15 A. AmeriCor.  
16 Q. What procedures are those?  
17 A. I don't recall offhand.  
18 Q. Are those given to the correction  
19 officers?  
20 A. No.  
21 Q. Is the correction officer or  
22 sergeant who does the intake, apprised of the  
23 existence of those?  
24 A. Yes.  
25 Q. And in what format is it? Verbal?  
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Robert LeFever

1  
2 Written? Training? Something else?  
3 A. I believe it's training.  
4 Q. Do you know if the correction  
5 officers are given copies of those, AmeriCor's  
6 policies or procedures?  
7 A. No, they're not.  
8 Q. And in terms of the training, is  
9 that the suicide-prevention training or something  
10 else?  
11 A. It would be other training.  
12 Q. How often is that training given?  
13 A. Periodically.  
14 Q. What does the AmeriCor procedure or  
15 policy provide?  
16 A. I don't recall, offhand.  
17 Q. Do you know if there's any  
18 requirement on the part of a correction officer  
19 or sergeant at intake to do anything if the  
20 inmate comes into the facility, apparently under  
21 the influence of drugs or alcohol?  
22 A. Notify medical.  
23 Q. Is that in writing anywhere - that  
24 it's the correction officer's or sergeant's  
25 responsibility to do that?  
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Robert LeFever

1  
2 A. No, I don't recall.  
3 Q. And when you notify medical, does it  
4 have to be on some kind of a routing sheet, or  
5 verbal?  
6 A. That would be verbal.  
7 Q. And at that point in time once  
8 notification to medical happens, does the  
9 inmate -- I'm sorry -- does the correction  
10 officer or sergeant have any further responsibility?  
11 A. Oh, they still have to maintain  
12 supervision on the inmate.  
13 Q. What level of supervision?  
14 A. It depends; whatever they think is  
15 appropriate.  
16 Q. Have you ever received any training  
17 as to what AmeriCor's procedures or policies  
18 provide if somebody comes into the facility  
19 having used drugs or alcohol?  
20 A. No.  
21 Q. On what do you base your belief that  
22 correction officers and sergeants have been  
23 trained on those policies or procedures?  
24 A. I'm pretty sure we went over it in  
25 the training session. I remember -- I remember  
COMPU-TRAN SHORTHAND REPORTING

**Robert LeFever**

1 **we went over it in the training session.**  
 2 **Q. You were present?**  
 3 **A. I don't know if I was.**  
 4 **Q. How do you know, though, that it was**  
 5 **gone over in a training session?**  
 6 **A. Because I talked to the training**  
 7 **sergeant about it.**  
 8 **Q. Who was that - Guarino?**  
 9 **A. Yes.**  
 10 **Q. Are there any policies or procedures**  
 11 **in the Putnam County Correctional Facility that**  
 12 **provides that a certain level of supervision**  
 13 **should be instituted if an inmate comes into the**  
 14 **facility under the influence of alcohol or drugs?**  
 15 **A. No.**  
 16 **Q. Anything in terms of training that's**  
 17 **given to officers as to what level of supervision**  
 18 **should be implemented under those circumstances?**  
 19 **A. No.**  
 20 **Q. Is there anything in terms of**  
 21 **policies or procedures in the Putnam County**  
 22 **Correctional Facility if an inmate comes in,**  
 23 **having a history of use of alcohol or drugs, such**  
 24 **as the inmate would pose a risk of withdrawal or**  
 25 **COMPU-TRAN SHORTHAND REPORTING**

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**Robert LeFever**

1 **some type of addiction symptoms?**  
 2 **A. No.**  
 3 **Q. Is there any, as far as you know,**  
 4 **training provided to officers and sergeants about**  
 5 **those types of inmates?**  
 6 **A. No.**  
 7 **Q. And as far as you know, the only**  
 8 **thing that the correction officer or sergeant**  
 9 **does, then, is determine what level of**  
 10 **supervision they think should be implemented, and**  
 11 **they notify medical?**  
 12 **A. Yes.**  
 13 **Q. Back to the policy Article 15, which**  
 14 **is Exhibit 2, on the second page, Number 4: "All**  
 15 **such notifications will be completed by**  
 16 **forwarding a copy of the prisoner's screening**  
 17 **form to the tour supervisor prior to cell**  
 18 **assignment."**  
 19 **Do you see that?**  
 20 **A. Yes.**  
 21 **Q. Do you know if, in practice, that**  
 22 **actually happens?**  
 23 **A. Yes.**  
 24 **Q. So, in all cases, the tour**  
 25 **COMPU-TRAN SHORTHAND REPORTING**

**Robert LeFever**

1 **supervisor gets a copy of the suicide screening**  
 2 **form?**  
 3 **A. He responds to booking and looks at**  
 4 **it, yes.**  
 5 **Q. And for how long has that been the**  
 6 **practice?**  
 7 **A. As long as I can remember.**  
 8 **Q. In terms of notification to the tour**  
 9 **supervisor, are you aware of any requirement that**  
 10 **a correction officer do a P-1?**  
 11 **A. Yes.**  
 12 **Q. Is that in writing anywhere, that**  
 13 **requirement?**  
 14 **A. No.**  
 15 **Q. Including in any procedure that**  
 16 **you've drafted?**  
 17 **A. No.**  
 18 **Q. And in terms of the reasons for a**  
 19 **heightened level of supervision, are those**  
 20 **supposed to be noted in the P-1?**  
 21 **A. Yes.**  
 22 **Q. Would that be all reasons, or just**  
 23 **some of the reasons?**  
 24 **A. Some.**  
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**Robert LeFever**

1 **Q. Why not all?**  
 2 **A. Just never did.**  
 3 **Q. And what, in terms of the reasons as**  
 4 **far as you know -- withdrawn.**  
 5 **How are correction officers made**  
 6 **aware of the fact that they have to do a P-1 if a**  
 7 **heightened level of supervision is instituted?**  
 8 **A. They're told they have to do that.**  
 9 **Q. By who?**  
 10 **A. Over time; not every correction**  
 11 **officer can work in the booking room.**  
 12 **Q. Is there anything in the booking**  
 13 **room, itself, which sets forth that requirement?**  
 14 **A. In writing, no.**  
 15 **Q. Would it then just be in terms of**  
 16 **actual on-the-job experience that would teach**  
 17 **them to do the P-1?**  
 18 **A. Experience and training when they**  
 19 **come in from another booking officer.**  
 20 **Q. So, another booking officer will**  
 21 **train them on how to do that?**  
 22 **A. Yes.**  
 23 **Q. And is there anything in terms of**  
 24 **that training or on-the-job experience that lets**  
 25 **COMPU-TRAN SHORTHAND REPORTING**

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